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Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 03229 161512Z

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 ABF-01 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 HEW-08 HUD-02 INR-10

INT-08 LOC-01 NASA-04 NSAE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 RSC-01

SMI-01 TRSE-00 FS-01 DRC-01 /101 W
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R 161439Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6703

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3229

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID,US, EG
SUBJ: SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY SCIENCE PROGRAM

REF: STATE 101531

1. HAVE TAKEN SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO REVIEW WITH RIAD DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON PROPOSED PROCEDURE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. IN GENERAL, THERE IS NO GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE VIEWS AND WE HAVE WORKED OUT INFORMAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH SHOULD BE SATISFACTORY. RECOGNIZE THAT MFA HAS IN THE PAST SOMEWHAT DESULTORILY SOUGHT TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE, BUT DIFFERENCE NOW IS THAT FOR FIRST TIME MFA HAS A STRONG, ACTIVE FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE PERSON OF FAHMY WHO IS INSISTING UPON EXECUTION OF PRESCRIBED MFA AUTHORITIES. FORTUNATLEY, FAHMY AND HIS SENIOR STAFF ARE WELL DISPOSED TOWARD US RESEARCH PROGRAMS HERE.

2. AS REPORTED IN CAIRO'S 910, RIAD MADE IT CLEAR MFA HAS NO REPEAT NO DESIRE TO DELAY OR HINDER WORTHWHILE PROJECTS. IT SIMPLY WISHES TO COORDINATE OVERALL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. IT ALSO WISHES TO
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 03229 161512Z

HEAD OFF RESARCH PROJECTS WHICH FOR REASONS OF

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

SECURITY OR OTHERWISE, EGYPTIAN SECURITY
AUTHORITIES ARE NOT PREPARED TO APPROVE. RIAD POINTS
OUT THIS WOULD SAVE US ALL TIME IF SUCH PROJECTS
ARE FLAGGED EARLY ENOUGH TO PREVENT WASTED EFFORT
ON BOTH SIDES.

3. MFA WANTS TO BE INFORMED OF PROJECTS WHEN THEY
ARE FIRST TO BE DISCUSSED. RIAD HAS NO OBJECTION
TO CONCURRENT EXCHANGES TAKING PLACE BETWEEN
INDIVIDUAL US AGENCIES AND EGYPTIAN COUNTERPARTS
USING DEPARTMENTAL AND POST CHANNELS. IF FINAL
RESULTS OF SUCH EXCHANGES OUTSIDE MFA LEVEL CAUSE
NO APPRECIABLE CHANGE IN BASIC PROJECT AND
NO SECURITY OR OTHER DETERRENT PROBLEM IS INVOLVED,
PROJECT COULD PROCEED AS AGREED UPON. IF SUCH
REFINEMENT AT SCIENTIFIC LEVEL ALTERS SCOPE
OF PROPOSAL IN MAJOR WAY, THEN IT WOULD HAVE TO
BE SHOWN TO MFA AGAIN.

4. RIAD IS WELL AWARE THAT SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM IS
TWO-WAY STREET AND THAT INTEREST OF BOTH PARTIES
MUST BE FULLY CONSIDERED. DO NOT KNOW WHERE
IDEA OF MFA COORDINATING ROLE BECOMING A VEHICLE
FOR DICTATION OF PROJECTS ORIGINATED, BUT THIS
IS NOT RIAD'S INTENTION. SAMETIME CANNOT
EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT MFA WILL ON OCCASION ASK
FOR US HARD CURRENCY IMPUT INTO PROGRAMS, BUT
THIS IS A CONSTANT PROBLEM HERE AND IS EASILY MANAGEABLE.

5. I SEE NO BASIC CONFLICT OF INTEREST BETWEEN
WHAT IRAD IS ASKING AND OUR OWN INTERESTS. SO LONG
AS ANNUAL PACKAGE OF PROPOSED SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS
IS SENT AS SOON AS IT IS DEVELOPED AND THEN BE
PRESENTED TO MFA, SEE NO REASON WHY SCIENTIFIC
AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES CANNOT ALSO CONDUCT
PRELIMINARY EXPLORATIONS WITH EGYPTIAN COUNTERPARTS.
WILL APPRECIATE FY 75 LIST SOON AS IT IS DEVELOPED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, SECURITY CLEARANCES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAIRO03229
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740121-0577
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740543/aaaabmfx.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 101531
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY SCIENCE PROGRAM
TAGS: EAID, US, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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